

achieved this very commendable goal. I am certain Sean's incredible accomplishments, dedication to service, and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

INTRODUCTION OF IMPORTED ETHANOL FACILITATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to facilitate the importation of ethanol. It is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and I appreciate his support.

The bill will direct the President to lower the ethanol import tariff, so that it will never be higher than the tax-credit subsidy for blending ethanol into gasoline.

Historically, the ethanol tariff was linked to the subsidy, and so had the effect of precluding foreign ethanol blenders from benefiting from the subsidy. However, the recently-enacted Farm Bill will reduce the subsidy but simultaneously extend the tariff for 2 more years at \$0.54 per gallon.

Unless that changes, the tariff will be changed into a trade barrier that will make it even harder for ethanol imports to enter the U.S. market. This can have serious adverse consequences. For example—

By restricting supplies, it will tend to increase the price of fuel—including both gasoline and ethanol—in the United States.

It will make it harder to import sugar-based ethanol, which can work in today's cars and, like other ethanol emits considerably less lifecycle greenhouse gas than gasoline.

It works against imports from friendly countries that produce ethanol while oil and gasoline imports from OPEC enter the United States tax-free.

It hinders the emergence of a global biofuels marketplace that could permit mutually beneficial trade between producing regions and stabilize both fuel and food prices.

And it tends to increase our dependency on fossil fuels—including petroleum from the Middle East—when we should be working to reduce that dependency.

By restoring the role of the tariff as an offset, not a trade barrier, my bill will prevent those consequences. In this respect, it is a companion to legislation (S. 3080) introduced in the Senate by Senator FEINSTEIN.

In addition, my bill will require the Energy and Commerce Departments to report to Congress regarding the possible effect of further reducing—or even eliminating—the tariff on ethanol on fuel supplies and prices in the United States and on the domestic production of ethanol.

I have included this provision because I think it is worth exploring whether legislation to further reduce or eliminate the tariff could help reduce fuel prices without serious harm to our domestic ethanol industry.

Madam Speaker, this bill alone will not do all that should be done to revise and reform our energy policies. But I think it can help, and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is an outline of the bill's provisions:

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section one provides a short title, "Imported Ethanol Facilitation Act."

Section two sets out findings regarding the reasons for the bill. It also states the bill's purpose, which is "to ensure that the tariff on ethanol does not exceed the tax credit applicable to blenders of ethanol, to avoid erecting a new trade barrier to imports of ethanol while assuring that foreign blenders will not benefit from the tax credit, and to require a study of potential effects of further reduction in or elimination of the duty on ethanol."

Section three directs the president to act to ensure that the ethanol tariff will not exceed any tax credit applicable to ethanol.

Section four requires the Department of Energy and the Commerce Department to report to Congress regarding the effects any further reduction—or elimination—of the ethanol tariff would have on (1) fuel supplies and fuel prices in the U.S.; and (2) the domestic production of ethanol. The deadline for this report would be 90 days after the bill's enactment.

THANKING MR. DANIEL G. DOODY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 6, 2008, we rise today to thank Daniel (Dan) Doody for over 23 years of combined federal government service within the Department of Defense and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Prior to his tenure with the House, Dan spent approximately 15 years of his career in the Department of Defense with responsibilities ranging from program control officer and staff engineer to various management positions supporting complex systems development activities.

In January 2000, Dan came to the U.S. House of Representatives, within the Office of Chief Administrative Office, CAO, as the Deputy Associate Administrator for House Information Resources (HIR). In this role, Dan managed the CAO's technology planning and budgeting activities as well as overseeing systems development projects and operations.

In August 2001, Dan took overall responsibility for HIR, an organization of approximately 270 staff. This role was quickly tested when in September 2001 the nation experienced the tragic events of September 11th followed quickly by the House Office Building anthrax contamination and subsequent closures in October 2001. Immediately thereafter, Dan was assigned the critical role of Program Manager for the House's Business Continuity Disaster Recovery (BCDR) initiatives. The focus of this program was to dramatically improve the House's business continuity planning and recovery capabilities so that House essential support services were easily restored or transitioned to backup systems in the event of an emergency.

Dan continued his duties as HIR Associate Administrator until February 2006 at which time he became the Deputy CAO for Operations. In this role, Dan had responsibility for the operations of HIR, Administrative and Fi-

nancial Services, Workforce Services, and Business Continuity. Dan's attention to detail, skill in developing working relationships at all levels of the House, Legislative Branch, and industry, as well as his uncanny ability to discern good ideas and implementation approaches from the bad, Dan was a voice of reason whose recommendations and opinions were always sought after and held with the highest regard.

Dan has dedicated his life to making the federal government and, in particular, the CAO and the U.S. House of Representatives a better and more secure place to work. After his retirement from the government, Dan's plan is to return to private industry. On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Dan for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

IN TRIBUTE OF REX LAIRD

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rex Laird, who retired this week after 28 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Ventura County Farm Bureau.

As CEO, Rex was responsible for managing the Farm Bureau's staff, daily operations and finances. He recommended policy to the bureau Board of Directors, implemented board directives, and represented the interests of the membership at legislative and regulatory hearings. He also served as the bureau's liaison with the news media and community organizations.

Rex did it all with a calm, consensus-building demeanor. It's safe to say that Rex and I didn't always agree, but we always parted with a handshake and looked forward to seeing each other again.

Rex commands respect due to his knowledge and passion for Ventura County's agricultural industry. During his tenure, the county's population more than doubled. Restrictions tightened on pesticide use; trade with the Pacific Rim expanded; competition from foreign growers increased; and growers faced floods, freezes, fires, droughts, and agricultural pests.

Rex not only helped steer the industry through it all, he helped it grow and expand. Today, agriculture remains one of Ventura County's top industries, grossing more than \$1.5 billion annually. Agriculture is also diverse in Ventura County, with citrus and nut groves, row crops, livestock and poultry, and nursery stock, among others.

Rex's skill as a consensus builder is epitomized by his role as a founding member of the Ag Futures Alliance Committee, which was formed to promote better understanding and dialog within the community on agricultural issues. The group includes representatives from the community, media, business, agriculture, environmental, and advocacy groups.

In 2005, the California Farm Bureau Federation recognized the Ventura County Farm Bureau for its activities in the Ag Futures Alliance and its leadership role working in a collaborative effort with the Association of Water

Agencies and other agricultural and water entities. Rex has been awarded numerous personal citations as well.

Madam Speaker, Rex leaves Ventura County's agricultural industry strong. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and in wishing him a long and fruitful retirement with his wife, Susan; and many years of enjoyment with their sons, Sean and Kevin; and their five grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
PLAYTER'S SERVICE AS A
WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND
POW

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and say thank you to a true American hero—and Missouri native. John Playter might not be a household name for many, but his service to our country during World War II certainly earns him a leading role in America's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Playter was called to duty in 1941 and served as an artillery officer before being taken prisoner with thousands of other U.S. servicemen after the fall of Bataan. His story of survival—through death marches and labor camps—in the Philippine jungles as an American soldier and a prisoner of war is extraordinary and nothing short of inspiring.

After more than two years in Japanese captivity, Mr. Playter regained his freedom only after the Japanese prisoner ship Shinyo Maru sank while transporting 730 Americans. Again defying the odds, John was one of only 83 survivors to be rescued by an American submarine.

When returning to Missouri, Mr. Playter met a young woman named Charlene at the O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield where he recovered from injuries sustained during his captivity. John married Charlene and spent the next 38 years of his life with her at his side.

Staying true to his roots, Mr. Playter worked 25 years as the city engineer for the City of Bolivar. And, along the way, published his memoir, *Survivor*. His personal telling of this powerful story describes the service, faith and triumph of John and his brave colleagues.

The Bolivar Rotary Club will honor Mr. Playter for his service to his country, community and more than 50 years of service as a Rotarian this 4th of July when they name a three-acre park in his honor during their annual "Celebration of Freedom." John's life is an inspiration to everyone and one that deserves this long overdue honor. I'd like to publicly thank Mr. Playter for his dedicated service to his Nation and community.

CONGRATULATING JORGE URBINA,
RECIPIENT OF THE PEACE
CORPS FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS
AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jorge Urbina on being awarded the Peace Corps Franklin H. Williams Award. This award celebrates the ongoing civic contributions of returned volunteers, and is intended to recognize the efforts of those who, like Mr. Urbina, have worked tirelessly to better their communities at home. Mr. Urbina will receive the award tonight, in a ceremony to be held here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Urbina is currently the President of the Denton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since 2001. His law practice, Urbina Law and Title, has consistently been committed to diversity in the workplace and involvement in the community. In recognition of his firm's outstanding work, Mr. Urbina was recently named the Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. In addition, Mr. Urbina is vice president of the Denton assistance center, a grassroots movement to build a common facility to house a collection of non-profit organizations in the area. He also recently resigned his position on the board of Interfaith Ministries of Denton, after serving for the maximum 12-year term. Mr. Urbina and his wife, Patty, have three children: David, age 21, Thomas, recently graduated from high school, and Susana, age 12.

Established in 1999, the Franklin H. Williams Award pays tribute to returned Peace Corps Volunteers of color who continue the Peace Corps mission through their commitment to community service, and who support the agency's third goal of promoting a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

I commend Mr. Urbina for the work of his outstanding legal practice, and also for his special involvement in the local community. The award he receives today is well deserved, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was detained while attempting to reach the House floor to cast my vote on rollcall No. 415 on June 17, 2008. Had I been able to reach the floor before the vote was closed, I would have voted "yea."

H. CON. RES. 318, SUPPORTING THE
GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANI-
TATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 318, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation and to help raise awareness of the importance of sanitation and safe drinking water.

This resolution recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment. In 2000, the United States and other world leaders committed themselves to combat poverty, hunger, and disease through the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). One target is to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

Today more than 1 billion people live without safe drinking water and an estimated 2.6 billion people worldwide go without proper sanitation. This lack of access contributes to the deaths of an estimated 1.5 million children each year. Clean water and sanitation are necessary to fight disease and reduce child and maternal mortality. Without it, more children will be sick, more children will forgo schooling, and more will lose their lives to disease.

The absence of basic water and sanitation services is particularly difficult for girls. In communities that lack these services, young girls often bear the burden of water collection leaving them little time or energy for school. Those who do make it to school find that only half all the world's schools have access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation—estimates show half the girls in Sub-Saharan Africa who drop out of primary school do so because of poor water and sanitation facilities. That is why investments in clean water and sanitation are essential to achieving universal education. A school sanitation program in Bangladesh helped increase the number of girls enrolling by 11 percent.

Expanding access to clean water and basic sanitation is one of our best strategies for improving the health and prosperity of entire communities and it is a necessary step toward achieving all of the MDGs. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution and to renew their commitment to improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to help people live more productive and healthy lives.

TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE
THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL DUMP
THE PUMP DAY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of an innovative approach to increasing use on our Nation's public transportation network. Today, June 19, Americans